



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

January 6, 2005

TO: All Communicable Disease Control Officers

FROM: Duc Vugia, M.D., M.P.H.
Chief, Infectious Diseases Branch
California Department of Health Services

SUBJECT: Reporting of Acute Hepatitis C

As many of you are aware, surveillance of hepatitis C in California has been challenging. We have taken steps to improve that situation. To begin this process, we consulted with the California Conference of Local Health Officers Communicable Disease Control and Prevention Committee and the California Association of Communicable Disease Controllers (CACDC). As a result of these discussions, the Infectious Diseases Branch (IDB) requests that local health departments:

- Investigate cases of acute hepatitis C and report them on CDC's "Viral Hepatitis Case Report" form, as modified by us, as attached. *Note: We are NOT encouraging you to find additional acute hepatitis C cases: report only those already reported to you as acute cases and that meet the CDC case definition for acute hepatitis C.*

The CDC form for reporting acute hepatitis C can be found on the Department of Health Services' Division of Communicable Disease Control (DCDC) Forms site under the title "Other Forms" (<http://www.dhs.ca.gov/publications/forms/pdf/cdcdraft.pdf>). Page one of the generic "Viral Hepatitis Case Report" form is for entering demographic information, clinical, and diagnostic data for any type of viral hepatitis. Page two is for recording information about possible risk exposures for acute hepatitis C infection. You will find the current case definition for acute hepatitis C on the bottom of page two. Please forward copies of completed forms, as usual, to the Surveillance and Statistics Section of IDB.

You may be interested to know that a working group of CACDC has been recently formed to provide better guidance on the reporting of chronic hepatitis C. The co-chairs are Dr. Janet Mohle-Boetani (jmohlebo@dhs.ca.gov) and Dr. Elizabeth Bancroft (ebancroft@ladhs.org).

If you have any questions about this letter, please do not hesitate to contact the Hepatitis C Unit at 510-540-2980. We appreciate your interest and look forward to working with you in controlling and preventing hepatitis C in California.

cc: Local Health Officers
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